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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT/8113992	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/SG 2003/000178	International filing date (day/month/year) 29 July 2003 (29.07.2003)	Priority Date (day/month/year) 13 September 2002 (13.09.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC ⁷ : B63B 35/38		
Applicant DEFENCE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AGENCY		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examination Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.</p>		
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II. <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 04.04.2004	Date of completion of this report 24 January 2005 (24.01.2005)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AT Austrian Patent Office Dresdner Straße 87 A-1200 Vienna Facsimile No. 1/53424/200	Authorized officer ETZ H. Telephone No. 1/53424/215	

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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/SG 2003/000178**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*
- ☒ the international application as originally filed
- ☐ the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the claims:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the drawings:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.
2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).
3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:
- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.
4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____.
- ☐ the claims, Nos. _____.
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____.
5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as „originally filed“ and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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International application No.
PCT/SG 2003/000178

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement		
Novelty (N)	Claims 1-30	YES
	Claims ----	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims 1-30	YES
	Claims ----	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims 1-30	YES
	Claims ----	NO

Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents have been cited in the Search Report:

D1: JP 56 005292 A
D2: JP 02 106487 A
D3: JP 04 185592 A
D4: US 3799100 A

The D1 describes a joining method for a floating box body on the sea. A concave fitting device of one floating box body is fitted in a convex fitting part of another floating box body. They are connected by strained wire passed through holes in the conical parts.

The D2 discloses a floating construction attaching a number of pontoon type box body units by joint means and shearing keys.

In the D3 a floating body connecting structure is described, consisting of an elastic member between a pair of mounting steel brackets to absorb oscillation of the floating body.

The D4 shows a coupling apparatus for two vessels formed by two or more resilient posts.

As the details of the connections in the documents cited are different from the details in the application subject, none of the documents anticipates neither novelty nor inventive step of the application subject.

Industrial applicability is given.